From: EPA News [noreply@cision.com]

**Sent**: 8/25/2021 12:28:47 PM

To: Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]

Subject: EPA Chicago - Daily Media Report - Wednesday, August 25, 2021

## EPA Chicago - Daily Media Report - Wednesday, August 25, 2021

## **Report Overview:**

Total Clips (12)

Chemicals (2)

Cleanup - Brownfields (1)

Cleanup - Superfund (1)

Grants (2)

Waste - Hazardous (1)

Water - Drinking (1)

Water - Surface (4)

	Headline	Date	Outlet	Outlet State	
Chen	nicals (2)				***************************************
	The EPA is banning chlorpyrifos, a pesticide widely used on food crops, after 14 years of pressure from environmental and labor groups	08/24/2021	Cadillac News Online	MI	
	Why is the EPA Banning Chlorpyrifos Now?	08/24/2021	IEN - Industrial Equipment News Online	WI	<b>1</b> 023
Clear	nup – Brownfields (1)				***************************************
	Latest plans for Sunny Farms Landfill to be discussed by Ohio EPA	08/24/2021	Blade Online, The	ОН	<b>0</b> 0
Clear	nup - Superfund (1)				***************************************
	EPA working on cleanup in Riverside, northeast Dayton industrial sites	08/24/2021	Dayton Daily News	ОН	
Gran	ts (2)				,
	Ohio EPA awards local recycling and litter prevention grants	08/24/2021	Highland County Press Online	ОН	<b>1</b> 02
	Sixth lead alert raises urgency in Benton Harbor; Residents up pressure on officials to replace pipes	08/24/2021	Detroit News, The	МІ	

	Ohio Attorney General Sues Vinton County Company Over Creek Pollution - WOUB Public Media	08/24/2021	WOUB-TV - Online	ОН	
Wate	r - Drinking (1)				
	Water plant project moving along	08/25/2021	Crescent-News Online, The	ОН	
Wate	r - Surface (4)				
	AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway	08/25/2021	WCHO-FM Online	ОН	
	AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway	08/25/2021	WKKJ-FM Online	ОН	
	AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway	08/25/2021	WCHO-AM - Online	ОН	
	AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway   1490 WBEX	08/24/2021	WBEX-AM Online	ОН	

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: Cadillac News Online

Outlet State: MI

News Text: ... California, San Francisco (THE CONVERSATION) On Aug. 18, 2021, the U.S. Environmental

Protection Agency announced that it...

Return to Top

News Headline: Why is the EPA Banning Chlorpyrifos Now? | □

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: IEN - Industrial Equipment News Online

Outlet State: WI

News Text: ...vegetables, nuts, corn and soybeans.iStock On Aug. 18, 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection

Agency announced that it will...

Return to Top

News Headline: Latest plans for Sunny Farms Landfill to be discussed by Ohio EPA | Ū⊠

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: Blade Online, The

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ... County will be discussed Monday night at a public meeting hosted by the Ohio Environmental

Protection Agency. Sunny...

News Headline: EPA working on cleanup in Riverside, northeast Dayton industrial sites | Section 11 | Section 22 | Section

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: Dayton Daily News

Outlet State: OH

News Text: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is working on a multi-million dollar cleanup project at area

sites that contain pollutants officials say could cause cancer and other serious health issues.

The sites, located at the McCook Field neighborhood, Old North Dayton and Riverside, are contaminated with volatile organic compounds, or VOCs, emitted as a gas. The risk at the Valley Pike site in Riverside and Behr Dayton Plume site in the McCook neighborhood are potential exposure to indoor air pollution coming from underground, said Rachel Bassler and EPA spokeswoman.

The cleanup process could take years, she said, noting that the project will cost about \$40 million.

## Health risks

Dan Suffoletto, a spokesman for Public Health – Dayton and Montgomery County, said the health risks from VOCs include headaches, eye and respiratory infections and difficulty breathing. Exposure to these chemicals for longer periods of time can result in cancer, damage to the liver, nervous system and kidneys.

Anyone who thinks they've been exposed to VOCs and are experiencing health problems should speak to their doctor, Suffoletto said. Physicians can test for the contaminants via urine and blood samples, he said. Public Health is not treating patients for VOCs.

The health risks vary, depending on how long and how much of the VOCs a person has been exposed to, he said.

"There's no hard and fast, if you're exposed for five minutes, this happens or that happens," Suffoletto said. "It's variable. You could see variable effects depending on the conditions in which you're exposed to those chemicals."

Anyone wondering if they've been exposed to VOCs can have their blood and urine tested at their doctor's office, he said.

## Clean-up is ongoing

At the Valley Pike VOCs site in Riverside, some parts of clean-up are already underway. The EPA said it is actively working with the responsible party, Mullins Rubber, to sample indoor air in homes, churches and businesses and install vapor abatement systems in homes.

The vapor abatement system captures vapors below the foundation and safely vents it outdoors and above the home before it can enter the home, Bassler said. Additional investigation into the contaminated groundwater plume is in the planning stages and is expected to be completed in the next five years.

At the Behr Dayton Thermal VOC Plume site in Dayton, some parts of the clean-up are already underway. The EPA is actively working to begin additional clean-up activities within the next few years, Bassler said.

The engineering design for the Valleycrest site in Dayton will be completed by the end of this year. Remedy construction, including clearing the site, the installation of a landfill cap/cover, and the installation of systems to control groundwater and landfill gas, is anticipated to begin in spring/summer 2022 and will most likely be completed in 2023.

At the Valley Pike VOCs and Behr Dayton sites, it will likely be decades before all the groundwater contamination reaches clean-up levels, which are based on safe drinking standards, the EPA said.

Who to contact

If you live inside the Valley Pike VOC site work area, the EPA encourages residents to have their home tested for vapor intrusion (see the map on the EPA's website), please contact: Kevin Kallini at 513-716-0873 or cicvalleypike@trcsolutions.com

At the Behr Dayton site, if you own a property and/or live above the groundwater contamination, provide access to the parties sampling for vapor intrusion or inspecting your VIMS if your home or business is equipped with one. Also, leave the fans running on the VIMS units. To inquire about having your home tested, contact Erik Hardin, EPA's project manager for the Behr Dayton Site, at hardin.erik@epa.gov or (312) 886-2402.

At the Valleycrest site, the main difference people will see during and after the cleanup is that the trees that have grown onsite over the years will have to be removed to install the landfill cap. EPA has asked to keep as many trees along the fence line as possible for privacy. Residents will also see the reopening of Valley Drive through the middle of the site as part of the site construction. The site will be fenced on either side of the road.

Return to Top

News Headline: Ohio EPA awards local recycling and litter prevention grants | ∅ ⊠

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: Highland County Press Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...at Marie.Barnett@epa.ohio.gov, or online: www.recycleohio.gov. The Ohio Environmental Protection

Agency was created in 1972...

Return to Top

News Headline: Sixth lead alert raises urgency in Benton Harbor; Residents up pressure on officials to replace pipes

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: Detroit News, The

Outlet State: MI

**News Text:** Benton Harbor's troubled water system has exceeded Michigan's lead action levels six straight times in the last three years, prompting residents to pressure city and state officials to speed efforts to replace the lead pipes they contend are the main culprit.

The southwest Michigan city issued a public advisory this month noting it found more than 10% of recent water samples from 78 homes exceeded the action level of 15 parts per billion for lead, resulting in an average reading of 24 parts per billion.

Benton Harbor, located off Lake Michigan and adjacent to the wealthier St. Joseph, has had lead-in-water results since 2018 that have exceeded state limits and are considered dangerous to the public's health.

The city's every-six-month testing was triggered by those initial elevated levels.

Benton Harbor's six consecutive lead action level exceedances are "more than any other community in Michigan," in recent memory, said Elin Betanzo, a former U.S. Environmental Protection Agency official and water quality engineer who helped uncover the lead-tainted water crisis in Flint.

"The data collected in Benton Harbor over the past four years show concerning lead levels throughout this community where half the service connections or more may be made of lead," said Betanzo, who has a consulting firm called Safe Water Engineering in Oakland County. "That's four years of residents at risk of consuming a potent neurotoxin every single day in every glass of water, accumulating lead in their bodies and the health effects that come with that exposure."

The state's Lead and Copper Rule requires that cities with lead service lines be tested annually, and if levels exceed limits, it triggers six-month sampling.

City engineers, who have said 170 lead lines have been replaced since 2019 with borrowed state funds, anticipate that by 2024, the city could replace an additional 900 or so pipes with \$5.6 million in federal funds the city received in June. They estimate there are close to 2,390 lead pipes in the city, meaning replacement plans would fall short of the city's needs.

But the city should replace large numbers of pipes and do it faster, residents said this past week, since even low levels of lead in children can lower academic achievement, decrease hearing, harm kidney function and create more problems with behavior and attention-related disorders. Lead exposure also can harm adults.

"The lead levels here are outrageous, and it seems like nobody really wants to talk about it," said the Rev. Edward Pinkney, a civil rights activist who has been critical of city and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy officials. "To me, they don't take the lead levels seriously."

Although the state has passed out water filters, many of the residents didn't know how to properly install them on their faucets or replace the cartridges, said Pinkney, who leads the Benton Harbor Community Water Council.

State officials have said it's unclear why elevated levels of lead began in Benton Harbor with the 2018 monitoring period and not earlier, but it likely is due to a change in sampling protocols and locations by the city.

Michigan's environmental regulators created an outreach task force this spring to work to identify and replace lead lines and provide the public with regular updates. The state of Michigan has mandated communities replace all lead service lines by 2041.

For Pinkney and others in Benton Harbor, the 20-year period to replace the lead pipes "in a city that is about four miles" long "doesn't make any sense."

Michigan's mandate requires municipalities to replace 5% of their lead service lines every year. The rule also requires municipalities with lead exceedances, such as Benton Harbor, to increase that rate to 7% unless they can reduce the lead levels through treatment, state officials said.

"They should be able to finish every home here with pipes from the house to the street in five years easily," Pinkney said. "This is not Detroit. This is not Flint. This is a very, very small community."

By comparison, Newark, New Jersey, had its first lead action level exceedance in 2017, and as of the first month of 2021, the city replaced 16,577 lead services lines, according to the city of Newark's website.

Chris Cook Abonmarche - who heads Abonmarche Consultants, the contracted engineering firm for Benton Harbor overseeing pipe replacement - said there is a "contractor capacity" issue the city faces in expediting the process because it takes time to plan and implement.

"It could take as long as a decade, but of course the community's under obligation to have the lead service lines replaced in 20 years, so 10 is an improvement," Abonmarche said. "But 10 (years) does not satisfy the needs and desires of the residents right now. Of course, they want it quicker."

Carmela Patton, 43, a lifelong resident of Benton Harbor, said the lead problem is "sickening." Her 18-year-old daughter has had learning challenges, and she wonders if they are the result of lead exposure.

"I don't know if it's from her drinking the water, growing up off the water, not knowing it was that bad," said Patton, who also has a 7-year-old child. "I hate for them to brush their teeth, wash their face, let alone bathe in it."

Patton said Benton Harbor gets overlooked by state and federal officials. "Like Flint went nationwide everywhere. The only time we get blown up is when they want to talk about the killings and the shootings," she said.

About the 20-year period to get the pipes replaced, Patton said, "I pray we're all still here to witness it."

Replacement 'takes time'

Benton Harbor officials in June finally received \$5.6 million in EPA grant funds initially approved under the administration of former President Barack Obama to replace hundreds of lead service lines.

But Mayor Marcus Muhammad said the city manager did not share the funding had been received with him and the

council, and that he had been unaware the money had been officially allocated by the EPA on June 7. City Manager Ellis Mitchell could not be reached for comment.

Muhammad said he has used his office as a "bully pulpit to illuminate the issue and the problem (of lead) and the need for it to be corrected," and that he should have been informed.

He said he's happy the funding has arrived and "that the work is going forward unbeknownst me knowing all the nuts and bolts and the details of what's happening right now on the ground."

"One home is one too many to exceed the lead level," Muhammad said.

The city is also vying for \$15 million more in loans from the state that along with the federal EPA funds would replace up to 90% of the pipes, Muhammad said.

An investigation is needed to figure out how many pipes are actually lead, he said. "These things have to run hand in hand, and I think we're going to know a lot after this first and second phase of investigations and know truly how many remain," Abonmarche added.

The city has used part of the EPA funds to hire a consultant to conduct a corrosion control study as required by the state that should take six to 12 months, said Jason Marquardt, an official with Abonmarche. In addition, bids have been put out to contract 100 service line replacements as part of the first phase that would be completed next April.

Marquardt said another construction contract will go out in the winter to replace another 260 pipes after next spring. The city will then replace 260 pipes in each phase until the grant money is depleted, he said.

Sampling ramps up

EGLE officials said they are committed to working with Benton Harbor to get the lead amounts reduced in its drinking water.

Residents have been advised "how to protect themselves by taking actions ranging from running their water in the mornings prior to first use to obtaining a lead reducing water filter," EGLE spokesman Scott Dean said.

The Berrien County Health Department has been providing free filters to residents with funding from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Dean noted although the city has made updates to its water treatment plant, much of the city's water distribution system is around 100 years old.

"Several water mains and lead service lines were installed in the first half of the 20th century, and many homes built before the 1960s are likely to have lead service lines or pipes that pose a health risk to residents," he said.

The city installed corrosion control treatment technology at its water plant in March 2019 to reduce the amount of corrosivity in the water, Dean said, and is increasing the monitoring of lead and copper in drinking water.

"Benton Harbor is now sampling twice as many homes as it did previously and increased the testing frequency to every six months instead of every three years," Dean said. "The increased testing will help measure the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment in lowering lead levels."

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Return to Top

News Headline: Ohio Attorney General Sues Vinton County Company Over Creek Pollution - WOUB Public Media |

UES.

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: WOUB-TV - Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: Ohio Attorney General Sues Vinton County Company Over Creek Pollution By: David Forster Posted on:

Tuesday, August 24, 2021 ATHENS,...

Return to Top

News Headline: Water plant project moving along | ⊎

News Date: 08/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: Crescent-News Online, The

Outlet State: OH

News Text: ...drinking water, including trihalomethanes (THMs) which are subject to Ohio EPA (OEPA) mandates.

THMs have the potential to cause...

Return to Top

News Headline: AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway | Ū⊠

News Date: 08/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: WCHO-FM Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: Washington Court House & Hillsboro's Great Country Ohio Attorney General Yost has filed a temporary

restraining order to stop a sanitation...

Return to Top

News Headline: AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway | ⊎ ⊠

News Date: 08/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: WKKJ-FM Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: The Scioto Valley's Home for Today's Country Ohio Attorney General Yost has filed a temporary

restraining order to stop a sanitation company...

Return to Top

News Headline: AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway |

News Date: 08/25/2021

Outlet Full Name: WCHO-AM - Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: Fayette County's Oldies Station Ohio Attorney General Yost has filed a temporary restraining order to

stop a sanitation company from further...

Return to Top

News Headline: AG Yost Seeks Order to Stop Polluter from Damaging Vinton County Waterway | 1490 WBEX | U

News Date: 08/24/2021

Outlet Full Name: WBEX-AM Online

Outlet State: OH

News Text: Ohio Attorney General Yost has filed a temporary restraining order to stop a sanitation company from

further polluting Raccoon Creek in...

Return to Top

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